



## **That's why we elected her**

On March 8, International Women's Day, U.S. Rep. Betty McCollum (D-Minn.) introduced a bill to provide the world's poorest families with access to family planning. H.R. 4188, the Focus on Family Health Worldwide Act, would direct \$600 million next year to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) for contraceptives, education, training, HIV/AIDS support and family planning.

"The goal is simple—provide couples in the world's poorest countries the ability to space their children and give mothers the opportunity to stay healthy, productive and alive," said McCollum in a prepared statement. "Keeping poor women alive is not to be taken lightly. Over 530,000 women around the world die every year from pregnancy related causes."

In his 2007 federal budget, President Bush cut international family planning money by \$79 million, to \$357 million, according to McCollum.

U.S. Rep. Jim Ramstad (R-Minn.) and the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice support McCollum's bill.

Source: [www.mccollum.house.gov](http://www.mccollum.house.gov)